

DON'T

OPEN

THE

DOOR

F



The House of Shadows

32

32A

33

33A

34

34A

35

SELLO MAKHAFOLA

Don't Open the Door

The House of Shadows

First published by Reedsy 2023

Copyright © 2023 by Sello Makhafola

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise without written permission from the publisher. It is illegal to copy this book, post it to a website, or distribute it by any other means without permission.

This novel is entirely a work of fiction. The names, characters and incidents portrayed in it are the work of the author's imagination. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events or localities is entirely coincidental.

Sello Makhafola asserts the moral right to be identified as the author of this work.

First edition

This book was professionally typeset on Reedsy.

Find out more at reedsy.com

Contents

1	Chapter 1: New to the City.	1
2	Chapter 2: Olivia Meet New Friends.	3
3	Chapter 3: Planning To Go Back To The House.	8
4	Chapter 4: The House.	12
5	Chapter 5: Should We Go & Rescue Her?	17
6	Chapter 6: The Cops Versus The Elderly Man.	21
7	Chapter 7: Olivia & Her Thoughts.	24
8	Chapter 8: Behind The Secretive Door.	25
9	Chapter 9: Escaping The Room.	31
10	Chapter 10: Olivia & Her Friends Start Another Friendship...	33
11	Chapter 11: The End.	37

1

Chapter 1: New to the City.

Olivia Reynolds moved to Chicago, Illinois, along with her grandparents. They moved to a house on 56 Adams Street. The neighbors did not extend a warm welcome to them. Olivia is still in her teens. Olivia was never told why they moved to Chicago.

In Reynolds House:

Margaret: Welcome to our new home.

Olivia: Granny, may I ask about something, please?

Margaret: Certainly, my dear. Please continue.

Olivia: What prompted our move to this new area?

(Margaret gazes at her spouse, Robert Reynolds.)

Robert: Listen, we had planned to discuss this once we were more settled, but since you've brought it up, I believe now is the right moment for us to sit down and have a conversation.

(They all take their seats, and Olivia gazes at both of them.)

Robert: You see, there have been some unsettling occurrences in our current neighborhood. Unexplained noises in the dead of night, strange symbols painted on our front door, and eerie encounters with our neighbors, who seem to be involved in something dark and mysterious. We can't help but feel that our safety is in jeopardy here, and it has become increasingly evident that we must relocate to a new place to escape these disturbing occurrences.

Olivia: Oh, Grandpa, that does sound really strange, but maybe it's just a coincidence or a misunderstanding. Are you sure there's something seriously wrong? I haven't noticed anything unusual about that place.

Margaret: Unfortunately, we've had our fair share of these incidents. Perhaps you haven't noticed them because you're simply unaware.

Olivia: Thank you for being honest with me.

Margaret and Robert: You don't have to say 'Thank you'; we are your grandparents, and we will always be honest with you.

(Night time, they all go to their bedrooms to sleep.)

2

Chapter 2: Olivia Meet New Friends.

Olivia was sitting on a bench in front of her house. Emily Sullivan, Ethan Blackwood, and Benjamin Harper passed by, and they decided to go greet Olivia.

Emily: Hi, never seen you before. Are you new here?

Olivia: Yes. We just moved in yesterday.

(Emily introduces her friends to Olivia.)

Emily: Oh, by the way, I am Emily. This is Ethan, and this is Ben.

Olivia: Nice to meet you. I am Olivia.

Ethan and Ben: Hi Olivia.

Emily: So do you have friends? I mean, we can be your friends. We will show you the city.

Olivia: No. I do not have friends, and I'd love to be friends with you guys.

(Ethan and Ben are whispering, and Emily hears them.)

Ethan: She's definitely mine.

Ben: What? She's mine.

Emily: Guys, stop it. We just met her, and you are already thinking otherwise.

(Emily turns to Olivia.)

Emily: I'm sorry, never mind these two. They are just crazy.

Olivia: (grinning as she gazes at Ethan and Ben.)

Emily and Olivia exchanged phone numbers and decided to take a stroll. Olivia headed inside to inform her grandparents that she was going out with her newfound friends.

Ethan: (reveals a secret that his friends does not know.) Guys, there is this place that has ghosts on 828 Roosevelt Rd. Do you guys want to see?

Ben and Emily: Hell yeah.

Olivia: Guys, I don't think that's a good idea.

Emily: Come on, it's going to be fun, and I probably think Ethan is just lying about ghosts. I don't believe in such.

Ethan: Well. I am not lying, Emily. Let's go, and then you'll experience it for yourself.

Ben: Ethan, are you sure about this?

Ethan: Man, trust me.

(They make their way to a decrepit, abandoned house located at 828 Roosevelt Rd.)

(They arrived and attempted to enter but Olivia stops them.)

Olivia: I still think that this is just one hell of a bad idea, and I'm serious. Don't you ask yourselves why a beautiful house should be abandoned? Clearly, there is something wrong with it.

Ethan: Yes. Olivia, that is the reason we are here. We are here for a ghost adventure.

Ben and Emily: Guys, stop talking. Let's go in before someone spots us.

(The door handle is covered in blood; they all gazes at each other.)

Olivia: Guys, let's go back.

Ben: We are already here, Olivia. Let's just check, and then we'll go back after that.

(Ethan takes off his t-shirt to cover the door handle, so they can go inside.)

Inside the house.

(the house is covered with blood all over.)

Ethan: This is going to be fun.

Emily: (looking scared) Now, I agree with Olivia. This was such a bad idea.

Ben and Ethan: (laughing) Why is it always girls who are scared? Come on guys, the party is about to begin.

(They all move cautiously through the house, exploring the rooms. Olivia's heart races as she stumbles upon a door with eerie words scrawled in blood: 'Do Not Open the Door.')

Olivia: Guys?.....Guys?

Ethan: (making a joke) What? Have you found your soulmate already?

Olivia: Guys, you need to come and see this?

(Ethan, Ben, and Emily approached Olivia's location and spotted the door. Emily's scream pierced the air.)

Ben: Emily, You need to calm down. You want people to spot us?

Ethan: (laughing)

Emily and Olivia: This is not funny at all. We need to leave right now.

(There was a sudden, unsettling crash, and a chilling noise echoed through the air, prompting all of them to let out terrified screams.)

(They all sprinted away, their gaze fixed forward, never once glancing over their shoulders.)

3

Chapter 3: Planning To Go Back To The House.

In Reynolds House. Olivia's grandparents hit her with several questions before she could go to sleep.

Margaret: Okay. Tell us, who are these new friends of yours?

Robert: Are they living around here?

Olivia: It is Emily, Ethan, and Ben. Yes, they live around here.

Robert: Still, you need to be careful. You cannot trust everyone you meet.

Margaret: Yes, dear. Listen to your grandfather.

Olivia: I understand, but can I go to bed now? I'm incredibly exhausted.

Margaret: What made you tired because you went out for only

two hours?

Olivia: (glancing around, uncertain of her words) Uh, well, we've been, you know, just walking around, and they were showing me some shops.

Robert and Margaret: At least now you know certain shops. You can go to bed. Goodnight.

(Olivia goes to bed.)

The next day

(She receives a message from Emily that reads, "Want to meet up later today?")

Olivia: (She replies with a 'Yes'.)

Later that day

(Olivia visits Emily's home and discovers Emily relaxing with Ethan and Ben.)

Olivia: Hi guys.

Ethan, Ben, and Emily: Hi Olivia.

Ethan: (Emily disturbs Ethan.) Guys, can we?

Emily: I know what you are thinking, so just forget about it, Ethan.

Ethan: What? You did not even know what I was going to say.

Ben: Come on, Ethan. We all know what you wanted to say.

Olivia: (laughs) Guys. Listen. After what happened yesterday, I was unable to sleep, so I was thinking maybe we should go and finish what we started. I mean, that can be our little memories together.

Ethan: Thank you. Thank you, V.

Emily: Are you sure about that?

Olivia: Yes. Emily, I am sure about this.

Ben: Do you guys want to have memories of scary things? I mean, we can go to a party or something.

Ethan: No, Ben. Don't be a bitch.

Ben: Nah, man. All I'm saying is that what if something happens to one of us while we are there?

Olivia: Nothing will happen, Ben. Relax and "Don't be a bitch."

Ethan and Emily: (laughs)

Ethan: I thought you were the one who was scared at first, but now you are acting as a hero.

Olivia: I told you. It's about making memories together.

Ben: Okay. I guess we'll visit the house again.

Emily: I think we should go with cameras so that we can capture everything that happens there.

Olivia: Great idea, Emily.

Night that day

(They set off, making their way towards the house at 828 Roosevelt Rd.)

4

Chapter 4: The House.

They arrived at the house and entered with cameras.

Ethan: Guys, something is off.

Emily and Olivia: (gaze at Ethan.)

Ben: What do you mean, man?

Ethan: Look at that table; it looks like people were having dinner there, and when we were here last time, that table was empty.

Olivia: Yes. Ethan is right. Something is really off in this house.

Emily: So what now? Are we leaving? If people live here and catch us, they'll call the cops on us for trespassing.

Ben: Emily is right.

Ethan: So you guys think we should just leave?

Olivia: Guys, you are wasting time. Let's just continue.

Emily: Guys, look at the window. Someone is coming.

(They all find a place to conceal themselves.)

(An elderly man enters the house.)

Elderly man: (sniffing, as he can smell the scent of a perfume.)

(He immediately went to check the secret room.)

(They are all whispering.

Emily: I don't know how, but we need to get the fuck out of here.

Olivia: Emily is right.

Ethan: Guys, let's wait and see what this old man is doing here; what if he is also trespassing?

Ben: I don't think so.

(Screaming sounds coming from that room.)

Ethan: Something is really off; we gotta go, guys.

Olivia: What? How do you think we do that?

In the room

(The elderly man talking to a girl named Isabella.)

Elderly man: You need to keep shut, or I will be forced to kill

you.

Isabella: (crying) Please do not kill me. I'm begging you.

Elderly man: Have you been outside this room?

Isabella: No, I've been here all the time.

Elderly man: So why do I smell perfume?

Isabella: I don't know. Please let me go.

.

Olivia: We need to do something.

Emily: Something like what, Olivia?

Olivia: I don't know, but we need to help her.

Ben: She's right.

Emily: So right now, you're no longer scared?uh?

Ethan: Stop playing, guys; she definitely needs our help.

Emily: What are you suggesting?Call the cops?

Ethan: Yes.

Olivia: Are you crazy? We are trespassing, remember? I don't

want to be arrested.

Ben and Emily: So do we.

Ethan: Then let's sneak into the room and hit the man with something.

Olivia: Oh, really? something like what?

Ethan: I don't know.

Ben: Ethan, look behind you; there's a golf stick.

Ethan: So you want me to be there? alone?

Olivia: Who do you want to go with? take Ben; you are boys

Ben: What? That doesn't apply here, V.

Ethan: (stands up and hits something by mistake.)

.

(The elderly man leaves the room to go and check what is happening.)

(He spots Emily, Olivia, Ethan, and Ben while they are trying to escape.)

Elderly man: Hey, who are you, and what are you doing in my house?

(As he locks the main door.)

Ethan: No, sir. We were just trying to capture pictures for our school project.

Ben, Emily, and Olivia: Yes, that is why we are in your house.

Elderly man: (looking suspicious) Do you know what is going on in this house?

Them: No, sir. We don't

(The elderly man secures them to chairs with bindings.)

Late, around 11 o'clock

(The elderly man went out to buy food for the girl in the room.)

(Ben managed to untie himself, and he managed to untie Ethan, Emily, and Olivia.)

Ethan: So what do we do right now?

Ben: We definitely run.

Olivia: Guys, what about the girl in the room?

Emily: Just forget about her, Olivia. This was such a bad idea; let's go.

(They departed.)

The elderly man returns to discover the chairs empty. In a hurry, he checks the room and finds Isabella peacefully asleep.

(He left the room and screamed 'no.')

5

Chapter 5: Should We Go & Rescue Her?

The next day

Emily, Olivia, Ben, and Ethan are together. They have been quiet for some time.

Ethan: Should we go and rescue her? I mean, you heard the way she was screaming. That man is definitely doing something to her?

Olivia: Why don't we just include the cops right now? If they ask us that, how do we know that there is a girl in there? We'll just tell them that we heard a girl screaming while we were passing by.

Emily: I think she's right, because if we go back there ourselves, that man is definitely going to kill us.

Ben: Guys, let's just relax a bit. Think about this properly.

Ethan: There is no time for relaxation, Ben. Someone's daughter is in danger as we speak.

(They head to the police station.)

(Still arguing about who's going to do the talking.)

Ethan: Guys, I cannot do the talking; definitely not me.

Emily: Not me

Olivia: Also, not me.

(They all gaze at Ben.)

Ben: Okay, okay. I'll do the talking; now let's go.

At the reception

Ben: Good afternoon, sir.

Police officer: How may I help you?

(Ben keeps quiet.)

Olivia: Come on, Ben. Tell him.

Police officer: He must tell me what?

Ben: Alright, there's an elderly man at 828 Roosevelt Rd. Who, well, he's, uh, taken a girl hostage.

Police officer: How do you know that?

Ben: Huh?

Police officer: I said, How do you know that?

Olivia: We kind of heard a girl screaming for help while we were passing by.

Police officer: What did you hear?

Emily: We heard, 'Please do not kill me.'

Police officer: Are you sure about that?

Ben: Yes, sir. We are definitely sure about this.

Police officer: Okay, what is the house number?

Ethan: The house does not have a number. You can easily spot it, as it looks abandoned. It is the one on the corner.

Police officer: Okay, go home. I'm taking a few police officers, then we'll head there.

(Olivia and her friends left the police station.)

As they journeyed back home, they noticed the presence of four police cars.

Olivia: Guys, do you think we should follow them?

Emily: Bad idea; don't even consider it.

Ethan: Don't you guys want to see what will happen there?

Emily: Let's just let the cops do their jobs, guys.

Ben: Guys, if we head over there and the cops manage to rescue the girl, she'll likely feel more at ease seeing young people like us.

Emily: Me, I'm not going anywhere. I definitely don't want to die.

6

Chapter 6: The Cops Versus The Elderly Man.

The police officers reached the house and rapped on the door. As they stood there, their anticipation turning to alarm, the abrupt sound of gunshots erupted from within the dwelling.

(They duck down.)

Police Officer 1: Something is off here; be careful.

Police Officer 2: Are we going in?

Police Officer 1: Let's alert whoever is in the house to come outside or we shoot.

Police Officer 3: Sir, we're here to ensure everyone's safety. Please come out of the house so we can talk and resolve this peacefully.

Or we will be forced to come inside.

Elderly man: You need to leave right now, or I will kill all of you.

Police Officer 1: No, sir. We are here to talk, not to cause trouble.

Elderly man: Leave me the fuck alone.

While the police were still planning to go inside, the elderly man slowly opened the window and targeted the police cars with a bazooka. He aimed straight at the cars and shot them.

All the police died at the scene.

.

Olivia: Guys, did you hear that?

Emily: What?

Olivia: Something like a bomb.

Ethan: I heard that too.

Olivia: So what if something bad happened to the police or the man and the girl?

Emily: I think maybe we should go and check.

Ben: You're right, Emily.

They head straight to the house where the police are. Unfortunately, they found police cars set of fire.

Olivia: Guys, does that mean we killed the police officers?

Ethan: What? nah, it cannot be us

Olivia: (crying) I mean, we are the ones who told them about the man and the unknown girl.

Emily: (comfort her) Don't cry, Olivia. It's not us.

Ben: It's probably the man inside.

Ethan: So what now? Are we calling another cops?

Emily: I don't think that's a great idea.

Olivia: They'll probably get killed too. I think this is our chance to save the girl inside.

Ethan: For now, let's run back home.

(They all departed.)

7

Chapter 7: Olivia & Her Thoughts.

Olivia is in her room, laying on the bed alone.

Olivia's Monologue:

Olivia: Maybe if we had not moved here, none of this would have happened. Is it my fault? Nah. Olivia, think properly. My grandparents told me a scary story about strange symbols painted on our front door and now we kind of stumbled upon a door with eerie words scrawled in blood: 'Do Not Open the Door.' Maybe it's just a coincidence or something, but wait, these two things might somehow connect.

What if the dark and mysterious stories followed us here? Should I tell my grandparents? Or maybe it's just me and overthinking things.

8

Chapter 8: Behind The Secretive Door.

Ethan, Emily, Ben, and Olivia plan to rescue the girl behind the secretive door.

Olivia: Guys, I still think it's our chance to save the poor girl from that crazy elderly man.

Ethan: Yes. We don't have any other plan.

Ben and Emily: So are we going there right now?

Olivia: No. I was thinking we go there at night so that the man does not see us.

Ethan: Great idea, Olivia.

Night that day

(They head to the scary, abandoned house on 828 Roosevelt Rd.)

Ben: Do you guys think that the man is inside?

Olivia: Obviously, after what happened two days ago. He have to be in the house to make sure that the girl does not go anywhere.

Emily: So let's sneak inside.

(They sneaked into the house without being noticed.)

(The elderly man was peacefully sleeping on one of the chairs; he was holding Olivia and her friends on.)

Ben: Do you see that the man is sleeping? We need to quickly go in there and take the girl.

Emily: So let's go.

They attempted to open the door, but the elderly man shifted the way he was sleeping and got them really scared.

Finally, they managed to open the door. They were shocked when they saw a beautiful girl sleeping with two strange animals on her side.

Emily: What? Let's get the fuck out of here. I don't want to see myself sleeping with one of those.

Ethan: Yeah. We definitely have to leave this place and never come back.

Ben and Olivia: Guys, we can't just leave her; look at her.

Emily: Then wake her up, V.

The elderly man woke up and saw the door open. He quickly went to the room and was shocked when he saw newfound friends trying to rescue the girl.

He slowly closed the door while they were all inside the room.

Emily and Olivia screamed.

Olivia: We are fucked, guys.

Emily: (anxious) I warned you all that we should have left right away when we saw what was in this room. Just look at us now! Trapped with... what are those creatures?

(Isabella wakes up and Emily said something.)

Emily: Are you waking up right now? I mean, you got us trapped in this scary room with you.

Isabella: (looks down.)

Ethan: Wait, Emily. You are scaring her. Maybe she's not used to people.

Ben: So what do we do right now?

Olivia: There's a window, we can use that to escape.

Isabella: This room can never be escaped, I've been trapped here for two years.

Ethan: We are dead.

Ben: Are you fucking serious?

Isabella: Yes, I am.

Emily: Ethan, Do you see what you got us in? This was your plan from first and Olivia did tell us this was such a bad idea.

Olivia: Let's not blame each other right now, we'll discuss that after leaving this place.

Isabella: There's no way you are going to leave this place.

Ethan: What do you mean?

Isabella: You see these two friends of mine? As soon as they regain consciousness, your fate is sealed.

Olivia: Are you not going to help us?

Isabella: I'm not even allowed to talk to you, I don't know any of you.

Emily: I'm Emily.

Ben and Ethan: For real?

Emily: What?

Ethan: Introducing yourself at time like this.

Olivia: Guys, listen.

Emily: I'm sorry guys.

Olivia: Stop apologizing, Emily. Listen, what if we try jumping out of that window.

(They go near the window, Ethan steps on a tail of one of the creatures.)

Creature 1: (roaring, as it wakes up)

Creature 2: (also roaring, as it wakes up.)

Isabella: I told you.

Olivia: Help us and stop saying 'ya told you.'

Isabella: I cannot, I'm really sorry.

(Creature 2 strangled Ben on his neck, and Ben bleeds lot of blood. Emily, Ethan, and Olivia screams.)

Conversation between the elderly man and Olivia.

Elderly man: You shouldn't have came here at the first place.

Olivia: We are sorry mister, please let us go.

Elderly man: You messed up with the wrong house.

Olivia: We are truly sorry.

Elderly man: At least now I don't have to buy food for my friends. Today they are going to have a nice dinner. Fresh blood.

Olivia keeps quiet.

(She attempted to talk to Isabella but Isabella opened her mouth as she's growing wolf teeth.)

Olivia: Isabella?

Isabella: (roaring as a creature.)

(The two creatures ate Ben's body.)

Ethan, Emily, and Olivia started screaming.

Chapter 9: Escaping The Room.

Isabella tries killing Olivia and Emily, but Ethan hits her with a chair.

Ethan: Are you guys okay?

Emily and Olivia: We are okay.

Ethan: We have to leave this place before we all get killed. We already lost Ben.

Isabella wakes up.

Isabella: There's no way out, my friends. Today I'm having a nice dinner.

Olivia: Please don't kill us; we are here to rescue you from that crazy man.

Isabella: Are you saying my father is a crazy man?huh?

Olivia and Emily: No. We had no idea that he was your father.

.

Elderly man: Isabella! Isabella, is everything okay in there?

Isabella: Yes, daddy. Thank you for dinner.

Elderly man: Anything for you, dear.

.

Ethan fights the two creatures as they attempt to eat him, Olivia, and Emily.

(The fight continues for some time.)

Isabella's wolf teeth disappear as she attempts to kill Ethan. She opened the door, and the two creatures left the room, and they jumped to their own as they ate him alive.

The two creatures ate on their own and left the house. Olivia, Emily, and Ethan managed to save Isabella even though Ethan was badly injured.

10

Chapter 10: Olivia & Her Friends Start Another Friendship With Isabella.

6 months later. Olivia and her friends start another friendship with Isabella.

Olivia: Hey, Isabella. We are sorry that we got your father killed.

Isabella: Nah, it's not your fault. His actions killed him, and I'm sorry about your friend.

Ethan: Yeah, we are definitely going to miss Ben.

Emily: Yeah, right?

Olivia: It's not going to be the same without him.

Emily: So what will happen to you now, Isabella? Are you going to be adopted?

Isabella: (gazes at the ground) I'm completely in the dark, so I

suppose I'll end up on my own.

Olivia: You're not alone; you have us with you now.

They all go for a big hug.

Evening that day at Reynolds

Olivia: Granny, I have something that I need to tell you and grandpa.

Margaret: What is that?

Robert: Okay, go on?

Olivia: Do you guys remember when you told me the reason why we moved here?

Margaret and Robert: Yes, we do.

Olivia: You mentioned that you once discovered peculiar writings on your front door. Unfortunately, me and my friends came across the same thing while we were walking on 828 Roosevelt Rd. We saw a house that looked like it was abandoned and we attempted to go in and check what was going on. Then we discovered that there's a man who lives there and he held his own daughter hostage with two strange creatures. We wanted to rescue her and we managed to but sadly, we lost one of our friend in that house.

Margaret: I'm so sorry baby, you should have involved the

police.

Olivia: We did, and the funny thing is that the man killed all the cops and at the end the two creatures that were in the house with the girl we rescued, ended up killing the man.

Robert: At least you are safe.

Olivia: Grandpa, this isn't about me. We lost our friend and now the girl that we rescued doesn't have a place to stay.

Robert: I'm sorry, dear.

Olivia: I was thinking maybe we should adopt her, I don't think she'll feel safe being taken to the foster care.

(Margaret gazes at her spouse, Robert.)

Olivia: Please, please.

Margaret: Okay, we'll think about it.

.

Olivia talking to Isabella.

Olivia: I want to tell you something.

Isabella: What? Are they taking me to a foster home?

Olivia: No, they won't. I managed to talk to my grandparents,

asking them if they'll be able to adopt you and they said they'll think about it.

11

Chapter 11: The End.

Olivia's grandparents adopted Isabella, and they lived happily together.

At Ben's memorial service

Ethan: Guys, this is my fault. If I did not suggest the ghost adventure, Ben would still be here with us right now.

Olivia: Don't blame yourself, Ethan. You did not know what was going to happen.

Ethan: And Ben, did tell us that maybe we should go to a party or something.

Emily: Guys stop it. This is not the right way to honor Ben's memory.

They all leave the cemetery.

